



**STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
242 STATE STREET
18 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0018**

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August 1, 2000

Scott Whitney, Compliance Officer
Drinking Water Program
Division of Health Engineering
State House Station 11
Augusta, ME 04333-11

RE: Department of Human Services Request for
Consultation Regarding Transport of Bulk Water by
Evergreen Valley Springs
Docket No 2000-593

Dear Mr. Whitney:

On July 12, 2000, you requested Commission review of the application of Evergreen Valley Springs for renewal of its authorization, pursuant to 22 M.R.S.A. §2660-A(3), to transport water for commercial purposes. That statute requires that your office consult with the PUC and other agencies before authorizing commercial transport of water beyond the municipality in which it occurs naturally. This letter constitutes the PUC's assessment of whether Evergreen Valley Springs' proposal to transport water from the Town of Stoneham would "constitute a threat to public health, safety, or welfare" in regard to its effect on any public water utility.

Our Staff reviewed the Evergreen Valley Springs proposal to determine whether the proposed withdrawal of water would adversely affect on the public water utilities in Bethel, Harrison, Bridgton, and Fryeburg. Our review indicates that the proposed withdrawals should not adversely affect these water utilities' water sources or watersheds.

It is our opinion that transport of water from Evergreen Valley Springs will not constitute a threat to public health, safety, or welfare. The public utility component of

the waiver process should be reviewed, to ensure circumstances have not changed, each time the authorization is renewed.

Please contact this office if you have questions regarding the public water utility impact of the Evergreen Valley Springs application.

Sincerely,

Dennis L. Keschl
Administrative Director

cc: Raymond Hammond
Lucien Roberge, Supt.
Hugh Hastings, Supt.
William Winslow, Supt.
Ralph Wentworth, Supt.

Bethel Water District
-Fryeburg Water Company
-Harrison Water District
-Bridgton Water District